

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
STRATEGIC PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE**

Planning Session I

February 24, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

IAC Offices, 100 N. Senate Avenue, Suite N505
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Ron Stratten, Facilitator

Notes

Members present: Glen Kwok, Wug Laku, Brian Blackford, Terry Whitt Bailey, Karen Ellerbrook, Lee Marks, Jon Ford, Jon Kay, Tod Minnich, Libby Chiu, Tetia Lee

Members via teleconference: Jeanne Mirro, Sandi Clark

Members absent: Dick Stifel

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** IAC Chairperson Jeanne Mirro opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Then she introduced facilitator Ron Stratten.

2. **Opening – What do you like about the arts in Indiana? What concerns you?** Mr. Stratten asked everyone to provide a short verbal answer to each of these questions. Answers to the first question included: the youth movement; there are more opportunities than one might think; the passion, enthusiasm and commitment; the sheer numbers of people who continue to make art a part of their lives, in spite of the lack of organizational contact; the arts network in Indiana is helpful; there is an aspect of visibility in smaller towns; impressed with the vibrancy of the arts scene in Indianapolis; heartening to see educational collaborations; explosion in culinary arts; small towns can engage in arts endeavors without apology; glad to see strategic partnerships such as the Artisan program; all disciplines of the arts enrich life in the state. Answers to the second question included: we need more collaborations for the common good; the arts-in-education “piece” needs to be more; cuts in educational funding are worrisome; much art business fares better out-of-state; younger people are involved but not financially supportive; hard to convince lawmakers of the quality of life issue; beyond music and visual art, other disciplines tend to be forgotten; the national reputation of Indiana as an “arts state” is not very high; the capitalization of the arts for commercial gain doesn’t necessarily raise the profile of the art itself; quality of art is compromised by the need for sales; how do you get art to the average person?; the quality of arts organizations is spotty, and there is duplication of services given the number of organizations vying for funding; Indiana is not on a tourism map for the arts; we don’t toot our own horn enough; there is a great history of arts in Indiana, but we have lost a sense of who we are.

3. **The IAC’s Current Strategic Plan – Overview and Progress.** Mr. Ricci briefly recounted the current expiring IAC Strategic Plan, of which the goals were: energize the arts environment with an emphasis on arts education; recognize the public value of the arts; and vitalize

community quality. Mr. Ricci and Mr. Stratten, who was IAC chairperson at the time, recounted the public meetings and information gathering which occurred during the process.

4. **Data to Consider.** Mr. Ricci presented everyone with a booklet of printouts showing results from an electronic survey conducted by IAC and sent to the mailing lists of the Arts Commission and the Indiana Coalition for the Arts. Over 1,600 responses were received. The responses were sorted into three categories: artists, non-artists, and all responses. Mr. Ricci went over each of the 10 questions from the survey, showing results in each of the three sorts, and discussing each with the committee. He asked that everyone continue to study and analyze the data before the next meeting of the committee on March 29. Questions were raised about the demographics of the survey respondents, but there is no substantial demographic data such as age, income, location or level of education.

5. **Any “Ah Hah” Moments in the Data?** Mr. Stratten asked the members to consider the brief presentation of the survey results and point to any striking or surprising aspects. Some of the comments were: to a limited extent, the arts are reaching the average citizen through social networking; there is a very large percentage of people who haven’t been reached; the issue of non-participatory board members is striking; younger people need training to serve on boards; there is a lack of “middle-age” members of boards; the average artist in Indiana with no other occupation lives at the poverty level.

6. **Opportunities and Threats to the Arts in Indiana.** Mr. Stratten led a brief discussion about the dwindling public monies being devoted to the arts, both in Indiana and nationwide, and encouraged members to consider fresh approaches, collaborations, new delivery systems, arts infrastructure and to regard the strategic planning process as an opportunity to refocus and revitalize the arts community.

7. **Planning Session 2** will be held at the IAC offices at 2:00 p.m. on March 29.

8. **Adjourn.** Mr. Stratten, Mr. Ricci, and Ms. Mirro all thanked everyone for their participation as members of the Steering Committee. The meeting was closed at 4:00 p.m.